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BOOK REVIEWS



IN CHARGE OF

M. E. CAMERON, R.N.

EDUCATION, THE OLD AND THE NEW, SCHOOL MANAGEMENT, THE EXPERIENCE OF HALF A CENTURY. By William P. Hastings. Price, \$1.00. Mailing, 15 cents. Published by the author. Battle Creek, Michigan.

The experiences of fifty years must necessarily prove to be interesting reading, especially when it is given in a personal way as in the present case. Realizing the many difficulties that teachers in the primary and elementary schools encounter and the discouraging results that ensue, the author marks some of the mistakes of the past rule and suggests changes in administration and practical teaching which he considers could be made with great benefit both to the pupil and to the teacher. He urges, too, better qualification on the part of the school officer and committee-man. Fathers and mothers, he thinks, might enlarge their interest in the children they turn over to teachers who are, perhaps, even less interested in the young people under their care.

He gives some truly shocking statistics of the inadequacy of the teaching in the elementary schools, drawing his information from examinations for entrance to West Point, applications being from all the states in the Union. The writer, in spite of the defects he find in the present system of education in the public schools, preserves a fine optimism for the future development of work in the teaching field in America, thinking that with intelligent and systematic care of the physical well-being of the pupils, and more personal enthusiasm on the part of the teacher, there will follow the now much-needed reform for which he pleads.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR STUDY AND PREVENTION OF INFANT MORTALITY. Transactions of the Second Annual Meeting, Chicago, Illinois, November 16-18, 1911. Printed by the Franklin Press, Baltimore, Maryland.

The report of the transactions of this society, still in its infancy, occupies four hundred pages. The membership at the close of the second year was 525. Thirty-four states, the District of Columbia,

Canada, England, and Scotland are represented in the enrollment. There are also 55 affiliated societies.

The president, Charles Richmond Henderson, Ph.D., University of Chicago, in his opening address, makes the claim that the education of the nation in its duty to the baby is the mission of the society and it is a mission whose call extends to all classes and kinds, and in order to reach these, he solicits the co-operation of newspapers, libraries, and churches. He says: "This association has sounded a rallying cry for all patriotic citizens to unite forces in defense of helpless infancy which is menaced by countless foes. Philanthropists, clubs of women, universities, municipal administrations, state and federal governments are summoned to the field of battle for the future citizens, around whose cradles a life-and-death conflict wages. We are not soliciting funds for a new society, but for the oldest of all. The mother-infant group was the primary social group; it is still more fundamental than the Supreme Court or the Hague Tribunal."

It will be easily seen that this movement is one which nurses find particularly interesting, and reference to the membership shows a large number of nurses and nursing organizations therein. The American Society of Superintendents of Training Schools for Nurses, at the annual meeting of 1911, adopted resolutions recommending co-operation with the American Association for the Study and Prevention of Infant Mortality in every way possible. The superintendents further recommended that provision be made in the courses offered in the nurses' training schools for adequate training in the care of infants, and for instruction as to the extent of infant mortality, its causes, and the means of reducing it.

Further the report says, "The activity of the nurses has opened the way for special membership campaigns among them." There has also been a good deal of interest aroused in the subject among local societies.

The report bears on its committee list the names of such well-known members of the profession as Miss Adelaide Nutting, Department of Nursing and Public Health, Teachers' College, Columbia University, New York, Miss Lillian Wald, of the Nurses' Settlement, 265 Henry Street, New York, Dr. Caroline Hedger, Chicago. Among the papers contributed are found articles by Miss Amy Hughes, General Superintendent of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, London, Miss Minnie Ahrens, Superintendent of Infant Welfare Society, Chicago, Miss Harriet Leet, Superintendent of Nurses in the Babies' Dispensary and Hospital, Cleveland, Ohio, Miss Martha M. Russell, Sloane Maternity Hospital, New York City, Miss Ella Crandall, Instructor, De-

partment of Nursing and Health, Teachers' College, Columbia University, New York, Miss Caroline Van Blarcom, Executive Secretary, Committee on the Prevention of Blindness, New York City.

The report, as a whole, is of tremendous interest to nurses and offers large opportunity for societies and individuals to enlarge the field of their usefulness. It offers work in any of the following lines if one has the enterprise to start out in search of it: educational, preventive or remedial nursing, and social work.

FRESH AIR AND HOW TO USE IT. By Thomas Spees Carrington, M.D.

The National Association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis, 105 East 22d Street, New York City.

"Probably not more than one person in every hundred, taking the country as a whole, gets enough fresh air to ward off the ordinary attacks of dangerous infectious and contagious diseases," says Dr. Livingston Farrand, executive secretary of the National Association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis, in a statement issued from the association's headquarters in New York.

"People," continues Dr. Farrand, "fail to get enough fresh air either because their lungs, or other respiratory organs are affected, or, more generally, simply because they do not open the windows and doors. For the former class a physician is needed, but for the latter, plain directions on how to live, work, play and sleep in the open air will do more than hospitals and drugs."

To meet the need of this latter group—not especially those who are sick but those who are seemingly well—the National Association has prepared this handbook.

This book is designed to prevent tuberculosis by showing those people who have no trace of the disease how to ward off the attack of consumption by living and sleeping in the open air. Failure to get enough fresh air by working and sleeping in poorly ventilated, overcrowded rooms is one of the most prolific causes of tuberculosis and also of a host of other infectious diseases. This free gift of nature is probably the world's best medicine not only in the treatment, but also in the prevention of disease.

The handbook tells how any one can obtain fresh air in the home, the shop, or the schoolroom at a cost ranging anywhere from \$1.00 to \$1000 or more, according to the elaborateness of the equipment desired.

While the association cannot afford to distribute the book itself free of charge, it will send to any one an illustrated synopsis or summary of it, entitled "Directions for Living and Sleeping in the Open Air," on request at the office, 105 East 22d Street, New York City.